

## AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0020] beginning on page 6 with the following:

[0020] The purpose of the present invention is to reduce the aerodynamic base drag of a bluff body traveling in close proximity to a ground plane. The drag reduction is achieved by attaching flat boattail plates that have non-rectangular geometries, such as curved trailing edges to the base of a bluff body. These plates are set slightly inward from the outer edge of the bluff body. The presence of these curved plates forms two vortical flow structures on the base of the bluff body. The first vortical structure is trapped between the freestream flow and the exterior of the plates and the second vortical structure is trapped in the interior of the plates. The outer vortical structure causes the flow to turn more sharply around the base of the bluff body, while the inner vortical structure turns the flow in the upstream direction, which increases the pressure on the base of the bluff body. Consequently, there is a net reduction in the aerodynamic base drag. Moreover, the reduction in the plate area at the corners thereof while maintaining a peak width between the end portions of the plate, also serve to improve reduction of aerodynamic base drag, especially in, for example, yawed flow ~~conditions~~ conditions because of the reduction in plate surface area that is less than that of a rectangular boattail plate.

Please replace paragraph [0025] on page 9 with the following:

[0025] Figure 7 shows a second embodiment of the present invention, generally indicated at reference character 700 and having wedge shaped vertical boattail plates

701 and 702. Each vertical plate is orthogonally attached to the base surface of the trailing end, and having rear edges with an angular configuration. Thus, the left vertical plate has a peak 703, and the right vertical plate has a peak 704, both of which are toward the center of the plate, such that the opposing ends of each vertical plate have the smallest widths. Similar advantages of vortical generation and drag reduction is achieved in this manner. In contrast to the curved edge boattail plates previously discussed, the two vertical ~~plates~~ plates may be used alone without requiring an upper horizontal plate.